

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TORONT 00060 072150Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13
TRSE-00 /082 W
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R 071934Z JAN 77
FM AMCONSUL TORONTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4776
INTO RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 1419
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS TORONTO 0060

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, SOPN, CA
SUBJECT: ONTARIO PREMIER PLANNING FEBRUARY VISIT TO QUEBEC

REF: (A) TORONTO 2160; (B) TORONTO 2380

1. THE TORONTO STAR CARRIED THE FOLLOWING NEWS REPORT IN ITS JANUARY 7 EDITION:

QUOTE - DAVIS LIKELY TO SEE LEVESQUE
ONTARIO PREMIER WILLIAM DAVIS IS PLANNING AT LEAST ONE TRIP TO QUEBEC NEXT MONTH AND IS LIKELY TO MEET WITH PREMIER RENE LEVESQUE.

AIRES SAID YESTERDAY DAVIS IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO ATTEND THE WINTER CARNIVAL IN QUEBEC CITY AS A GUEST OF HONOR, HE IS ALSO CONSIDERING AN INVITATION TO ADDRESS THE CANADIAN CLUB OF MONTREAL FEB 21. UNQUOTE.

2. COMMENT: WHILE PROVINCIAL LIBERAL LEADER SMITH HAS BEEN URGING DAVIS TO GO TO QUEBEC AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A DAVIS SPEECH IS IN LINE WITH THE TORONTO STAR'S RECOMMENDATION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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DECEMBER 22 (BOTH POINTS COVERED REF B), WE BELIEVE DAVIS' APPEARANCES IN QUEBEC WILL BE MORE IN LINE WITH THE LOW KEY APPROACH DAVIS HAS TAKEN THUS FAR, WHICH THE JANUARY 10 MACLEAN'S MAGAZINE, IN AN ARTICLE ON THE PROBABILITY OF 1977 PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS, REFERRED TO AS AN ATTEMPT BY THE PREMIER TO "STRIKE THE SAME STATESMANLIKE STANCE OF HIS PREDECESSOR, JOHN ROBARTS," WHO "PROJECTED A KIND OF BENIGN, MAJESTICAL CALM

AT FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCES." WE HAVE NO DOUBTH THAT
DAVIS WILL BE HAPPY TO STIFLE LIBERAL CRITICISM AND ACCOMMODATE
THE PONDEROUS PRONOUNCEMENTS OF THE TORONTO STAR. HOWEVER, WE
BELIEVE DAVIS SEES MORE VALUE IN BUILDING BRIDGES "OF TRUST
AND COOPERATION" (SEE REF A) THAN IN THE EMOTIONAL APPROACH
SUGGESTED BY LIBERAL LEADER SMITH.

DIGGINS

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